GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING OF AIR INDIA
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any circular has been issued to all the managers warning them of fixing responsibility for the non-utilisation of seats in the planes of Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Air India has been suffering losses because of its planes going with less number of passengers; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken/to be taken by the Government to improve the working of the Air India to make the airlines viable ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) and (b):- Yes, Sir. Circulars and telexes have been sent to Regional Directors/Managers to monitor and ensure better utilization of seats. Managers have also been instructed to carry strict pre-flight checks, check advance booked Loads, monitor agents bookings with ticket numbers to ensure roll back of inventory with final view to maximise uplifts from their stations. The India Region has also instituted a no show charge and a cancellation charge if bookings are cancelled within 24 hours.

(c) :-The demand for seats varies with seasons and the competitors capacities/products/fare levels in the market. Airlines do not operate to full capacity throughout the year and it is therefore incorrect to say that Air India is suffering loss due to less number of passengers.

(d): Air India has taken following steps to make it viable:-

(i) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

(ii) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz shorter working week scheme and leave without pay and allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years.

(iii) Rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

(iv) Redeployment of employees from non- operational to operational areas.

(v) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories.